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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

KIRA, et al.

Serial Number: 08/897,953

Filed: July 24, 1997

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FABRICATING SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE



Group Art Unit: 2814

Examiner: D. Graybill

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
SEP 13 1999
September 8, 1999
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of this document is attached hereto, along with an English translation of claim 1 and other relevant portions of the document.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance. A check is attached hereto which covers the \$240.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear

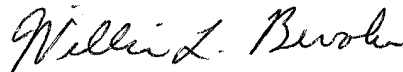
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on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340. Two copies of this authorization are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
McLELAND & NAUGHTON



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Enclosures: PTO-1449, 1 Reference, 1 Partial English Translation of Reference
Check for \$240.00

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